



BOROUGH OF ABERGAVENNY



Medical Officer
of
Health's Report

1970



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Annual Report

1970

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The estimated population of Abergavenny remains comparatively static with little overall fluctuation in either the death rate or the birth rate. Nevertheless, the demand for more new houses goes on. People not only expect a higher standard of living but families are no longer the tight-knit units they used to be. Young people nowadays are not content to live with their parents and grandparents. In middle age, parents also like to shed some of their earlier responsibilities to their children and mums often wish to have wider interests outside the house. At the same time there are more pensioners, many of whom have found life increasingly difficult in houses that have become too large and laborious with too few amenities and inadequate help.

Not so long ago houses were built with the minimum regard to physical environment only. These were arranged in long rows having a small back yard, often improperly paved, and opening directly on to the street in front. Although many of them have been given a facial uplift they can still be seen in the older parts of Abergavenny. They were strictly utilitarian in character, possessing few of the 'mod cons.' Baths were installed gradually by the conversion of a bedroom to bathroom. The flushing cistern replaced the old fashioned hand flushed water closet. Electricity gained supremacy over the old gas mantles. Cooking facilities remained rather primitive for some time—the old kitchen range occupying pride of place and faithfully 'black japaned' by the more diligent housewife. Such accommodation provided a measure of comfort for the worker and his family without exceeding his income limits. Frequently they were occupied by two or more families.

Latterly we had the short terraces of houses of varying design with front and back gardens. The two or three-bedroom non-parlour type of house came into vogue. Then slowly the negative approach to the housing problem gave way to a more positive outlook and there was a vigorous drive against overcrowding. As a result one and two-room dwellers became fewer in number.

The changing concepts of the environment now require the building of houses according to family needs—physical, emotional and social. The goal should be the provision of a self-contained dwelling of flexible design for each family. Ideally, the house should be constructed so as to

allow parents to live harmoniously together and to bring up children under healthy and comfortable conditions. Living space within the house must not only be adequate but it must be well insulated and the space heating efficient. Kitchen designs have been revolutionised with the provision of labour-saving devices while retaining sufficient room for working convenience.

Recent planning tends to provide a mixture of dwellings; family houses arranged in short terraces or individually, bungalows for the elderly as well as a small number of flats. All should be within easy distance of industrial shopping and cultural centres and, at the same time, adequate space for recreation must be provided. It is desirable that people should interest themselves in community affairs, therefore, it is necessary to have a wide range of social and cultural amenities available to all. These include churches, schools, libraries, public houses, parks, playing fields, youth clubs, cinemas, etc. Certainly, Abergavenny spends its energy in an attempt to provide more and more houses conducive both to the health and happiness of its inhabitants but generally speaking we are still some way off its objective.

Despite efforts made there is mounting evidence of a sick society in certain sections of the community. Acts of hooliganism and vandalism occur too frequently, within any class of society tending to flourish whenever a crowd is gathered together.

In the main infectious diseases are under control, but we see an upward trend in the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases through promiscuity. This form of behaviour has already spread to the teenage groups, and it seems that more infections are occurring even at school. The illegitimate birth rate has increased. In 1970 for every 13 births in Abergavenny one child was illegitimate. We may have so-called enlightened society, but there are still many medical and social hazards associated with illegitimacy. Our actual suicide rate in the town remains low but hospital statistics show that attempted suicides are far from infrequent. The old problems changeth yielding place to new.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Area in Acres...	2397	2397	2397	2297	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397	2397
Population ...	9620	9700	9710	9770	9790	9760	9670	9560	9600	9520
Houses (<i>including houses assessed with shops according to the Rate Book</i>)	3073	3299	3318	3356	3390	3423	3415	3409	3287	3376
Rateable Value	£ 107504	£ 257195	£ 266878	£ 272239	£ 277483	£ 283444	£ 285459	£ 289368	£ 319558	£ 347740
Product of 1d. Rate	413	1000	1040	1050	1050	1094	1096	1125	1256	3332

LIVE BIRTHS			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	65	79	144
Illegitimate ...	...	...	6	6	12
Total	...	...	71	85	156

CRUDE LIVE BIRTH RATE	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Per 1,000 Population ...	16.4	15.7	16.0
Comparability Factor – 1.10			
Adjusted Live Birth Rate—16.4 x 1.10 – 18.0.		County 16.01.	E. & W. 16.0
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births.	Borough 6.	County 5.72.	13
Ratio of local adjusted birth rate to national rate,	1.13.		

STILL BIRTHS			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate ...	...	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate ...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	—	1	1

STILL BIRTH RATE	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Per 1,000 Live and Still Births	6	15.4	13.0

DEATHS			<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes ...	...	...	66	67	133

Crude Death rate per 1,000 population	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Comparability Factor 0.99	14.0	11.6	11.7
Adjusted Death Rate 14.0 x 0.99	13.9	12.99	11.7

Death from Cancer ...	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Death from Lung Cancer ...	7	7	24
Death due to Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion—Nil.	5	—	5
Maternal Mortality Rate ...			
Rate per 1,000 live and Still Births	<i>Borough</i>	<i>County</i>	
	0	0.18	

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (Rate per 1,000 live births) ...	<i>Borough</i> 32	<i>County</i> 21.12	<i>E. & W.</i> 18.0
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate live births	35	21.64	17.0
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	12.62	26.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate—first 4 weeks (Rate per 1,000 live births)	19	14.26	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Under 1 week)	19	12.63	11.0
Perinatal Mortality (Still births and infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births	25	27.9	23.0

Perinatal Mortality in Abergavenny 1960–70

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of first Week Deaths</i>	<i>Number Still-Births</i>	<i>Perinatal Mortality Rate</i>
1970	3	1	25.0
1969	2	—	13.0
1968	4	5	53.6
1967	3	3	37.5
1966	1	1	12.1
1965	1	5	31.25
1964	9	2	57.8
1963	3	2	30.6
1962	2	9	71.4
1961	5	2	46.1
1960	2	5	51.3

PERINATAL MORTALITY (1961—1969)
Abergavenny Borough, Abergavenny Rural District and
Monmouthshire County.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Abergavenny Borough</i>	<i>Abergavenny Rural District</i>	<i>Monmouthshire</i>
1970	25.0	39.0	27.90
1969	13.0	6	27.33
1968	53.6	7.0	28.99
1967	37.5	21.7	29.09
1966	12.1	48.95	33.87
1965	31.25	—	35.98
1964	57.8	28.6	37.25
1963	30.6	—	35.82
1962	71.4	42.55	38.85
1961	46.1	28.99	39.9

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
1940	8407 (New Borough) ...	122	149	14.5	17.7
1941	8769 (New Borough) ...	130	135	14.6	15.39
1942	8468 (New Borough) ...	134	113	18.8	13.34
1943	8174 (New Borough) ...	127	122	15.56	13.34
1944	7931 (New Borough) ...	139	104	17.5	13.11
1945	8275 (New Borough) ...	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439 (New Borough) ...	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427 (New Borough) ...	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532 (New Borough) ...	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597 (New Borough) ...	134	94	15.6	10.9
1950	8534 (New Borough) ...	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904 (New Borough) ...	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9058 (New Borough) ...	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070 (New Borough) ...	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140 (New Borough) ...	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970 (New Borough) ...	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910 (New Borough) ...	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980 (New Borough) ...	131	112	14.89	12.49
1958	9020 (New Borough) ...	171	139	14.96	15.4
1959	9030 (New Borough) ...	163	126	11.80	13.95
1960	9080 (New Borough) ...	151	114	16.63	11.6
1961	9620 (New Borough) ...	150	123	15.59	12.27
1962	9700 (New Borough) ...	159	120	16.39	12.37
1963	9710 (New Borough) ...	187	143	18.13	14.73
1964	9770 (New Borough) ...	188	136	19.24	13.9
1965	9790 (New Borough) ...	187	123	19.1	12.56
1966	9760 (New Borough) ...	164	132	16.81	13.5
1967	9760 (New Borough) ...	157	133	16.2	13.8
1968	9560 (New Borough) ...	163	143	17.1	15.0
1969	9600 (New Borough) ...	151	150	15.7	15.6
1970	9520 (New Borough) ...	156	133	16.4	14.0

NUMBER OF DEATHS BY CAUSE IN SEX AND AGE GROUPS—ABERGAVENNY BOROUGH, 1970

[illegible]

NUMBER OF DEATHS BY CAUSE IN SEX AND AGE GROUPS—ABERGAVENNY BOROUGH, 1970

	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 Wks.	4 Wks. Under 1 Yr.	Age in Years									
					1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75-	
Influenza
		M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pneumonia	3
		F	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis and Emphysema
		M	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory System
		M	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Peptic Ulcer
		M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Digestive System
		M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Nephrosis
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Birth Injury—Difficult Labour, etc.
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes Perinatal Mortality
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Motor Vehicle Accidents
		M	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other Accidents
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
All other External Causes
		M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL ALL CAUSES
		M	66	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		F	67	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
			
						

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	Nil
Measles	...	...	...	36
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	Nil
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	Nil
Erysipelas	...	...	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	...	...	Nil
Encephalitis	...	...	...	Nil
Acute Primary Pneumonia	...	...	...	Nil
Salmonella Typhimurium	...	...	...	Nil
Dysentery	...	...	...	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Notified : Pulmonary	M 0	F 3	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 0
Deaths : Pulmonary	M 0	F 0	Non-pulmonary	M 0	F 0

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)

(Classified according to sex and age)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Age</i> 0-4	<i>Age</i> 5-9	<i>Age</i> 10-14	<i>Age</i> 15-24	<i>Age</i> 25	<i>Total</i> <i>plus</i>
Diphtheria	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Menigococcal	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	Male	9	11	—	1	—	21
	Female	6	8	—	1	—	15
Whooping Cough	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salmonella	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhimurium	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia	Male	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	Female	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1970

<i>Age</i>		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-</i>	
		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>	
		<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5- 9 years	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-29 years	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-39 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40-49 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50-59 years	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60 and over	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLY

THE GWENT WATER BOARD took over in accordance with the implementation of the regrouping of Water Undertakings in Monmouthshire.

On the 14th October, 1969, the Gwent Water Board Order, 1969, came into operation in which the Abergavenny Borough Council, amongst others, ceased to function as a water undertaking. On April 1st, 1970, the Board took over the responsibilities of providing water for this and the undertaking of the Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board, the Abertillery and District Water Board, the Pontypool and District Water Company and the water undertaking of the Councils of the Urban Districts of Bedwellty, Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Nantyglo and Blaina, Tredegar and the Rural District Councils of Abergavenny, Monmouth and Pontypool.

As far as this Department is concerned, results of bacteriological examinations of samples by the Board's laboratory staff have been received regularly and each one has indicated that the water is supplied free of contamination. Thirteen samples of treated water from various premises were taken by this department and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory service with similar results.

Five samples of untreated water from the raw water supply to the reservoir were found to be unsatisfactory, while six samples from private supplies were likewise, below standard. It is to be hoped that with the additional sources of water at their disposal, the Board's Engineers might find it possible to provide at least some of these properties which are in a suitable position with an adequate supply of wholesome water from the mains.

SWIMMING BATHS

While the bacteriological standard was maintained during the season it was evident that the chlorinator was so deteriorated as to make the task very difficult. The fact that a satisfactory free chlorine level was held prevented the closing down of the Baths. It is to be hoped that the repairs pending the possible replacement of the apparatus will be carried out before the next season opens in May.

The Bath Superintendent reported a satisfactory season in spite of the inclement weather. It appears, from remarks by the Monmouthshire Physical Training Organiser, that the schools' records for the season was on a par and in some cases better than those of indoor pools which are open all the year round. The enthusiasm of the young swimmers is highly commendable when one realises that under the rules of the "Royal Life Savings" Society 18 Bronze Medallions, 6 Intermediates, 2 Bronze Crosses and 1 Distinction was obtained in September with the candidates swimming continuously for approximately $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours when the temperature of the water was approximately 52°F.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Borough Engineer reports that apart from those minor setbacks that occur in any well-run organisation the works continued to function throughout the year with the highest efficiency.

Among the small items mentioned above there was a short period when the works received a quantity of oil which must have been discharged into the sewer, while in this case the amount involved was within the Sewage Works Manager's ability to cope, it could well have been otherwise. It behoves all garage occupiers to ascertain that they have an oil and petrol interceptor on their premises, and if they already have one to make sure that it is adequately cleansed and functioning properly. Apart from its obvious effect on sewage purification it is an offence in law to pass this and any other deleterious liquid from any other trade or by any private person. Many people seem to care less and less where they dispose of their unwanted rubbish, happy to leave it to someone else to keep the environment clean and safe. In this case, however, there could be quite far reaching results and it therefore becomes everybody's duty to see that the drains and sewers carry away from those premises only the substances for which the system was designed.

HOUSING

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT AREA

In February the Council initiated the action they proposed to take to implement the instruction laid down in the Housing Act for the improvement of selected areas in the town. The Grofield Ward comprising some 500 dwellings readily lends itself to such a scheme. The dwellings are mainly about 130 years old and the only alternative would be the wholesale demolition and redevelopment of a large area of the town. Consultations were held by the Town Clerk with officers of this Authority and those of the Planning Authority where it was decided that while the whole of the Grofield Ward should be designated an Improvement Area a pilot scheme should be carried out to include the individual improvements in 30 houses in Victoria Street with an environmental improvement of the areas on each side of the selected portion of Victoria Street and bounded respectively by Trinity Street and Princes Street. This latter scheme involves the provision of an accommodation road on land at the rear of the premises dedicated by the owners to the Council for this specific purpose and the improvement of the street by the provision of a landscaped pedestrian precinct and restricted traffic flow.

Following the resolution of the Committee many months of interviews, public meetings, planning conferences and field work followed. Gradually the picture of the scheme became apparent and the enthusiasm of the inhabitants of the area was built up. Patient explanation and involvement by the public have resulted in full co-operation even to the setting up of a Ward Residents' Association for the purpose of co-ordinating efforts by the Council and residents. By the end of the year the Borough Engineer's Architectural Assistant had almost completed his detailed layout, and it is hoped that very soon in the New Year contracts would be signed and the work commenced.

In the meantime the Planning Authority, whose officers have been vitally involved, produced plans for suggested improvements in individual houses, and it is hoped that from the information derived from this exercise the continuous process of improvements in the whole area can be expedited.

From the work carried out so far, certain fundamental principles have become manifestly apparent. First the Council must be given a clear and precise report upon the possibilities and potentials of an area, indicating improvement areas and slum clearance areas precisely so that they are able to make a firm resolve as to their intentions. Then, in the carrying out of the scheme the residents concerned must be kept fully in the picture by any means available, public meetings, press and individual meetings. Those officers concerned in dealing with the public must be patient, understanding and above all, honest. When these principles are demonstrated the reaction by the people involved is immediate and enthusiastic.

ALLOCATION OF HOUSES

Work for the provision of new houses was recommenced in a scheme for 103 dwellings. In this scheme arrangements were made to the policy of the Welfare Authority for the provision of wardens supervising groups of elderly occupants living in dwellings with purpose made facilities such as wider doors, ramps, low baths and handrails. In this respect 35 families or 45 persons were able to be rehoused. In addition 6 New houses for general housing needs and 4 bungalows were erected for the elderly, taking in 10 families or 25 persons. 30 flats, 10 houses and 18 bungalows to complete the scheme are in various stages of production and will be ready for occupation during the early months of next year.

This scheme has been carried out on the site of the 50 prefabricated bungalows which were erected in 1947 under the then Government's scheme for emergency houses. They have systematically demolished during the redevelopment of the area after having given satisfactory housing to many families over 24 years.

During the year 28 families affecting 112 persons were allocated houses vacated during the year, 33 families comprising 65 people were placed in re-let flats, while 13 persons in 7 families were put into vacated flats and one aged persons was housed in a re-let bungalow.

A number of persons were transferred from one dwelling to another on the Council Estates for various reasons including overcrowding, under-occupation, illness and/or infirmity. The Housing Officer has reported that he is paying strict attention to cases made out for transfer. Only for the above reasons could he consider representing a case to the Housing Committee. Failure to do this would mean an overwhelming spate of transfers for all sorts of reasons, both trivial and unreasonable besides those worthy of consideration. As it was 34 transfers were allowed from houses, 8 from flats, 7 aged persons' flats and 3 aged persons' bungalows.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.			
(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	52
(b)	Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	115
2.	(a) Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925			
		...	...	Nil
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose	...	...	Nil

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Houses in Clearance Area declared under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957

Number of Houses demolished :—

Unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
Included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	Nil
On Land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil

Persons Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included by reason of bad arrangement	...	...	...	Nil
From houses on land acquired under Section 43 (2) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil

Families Displaced :—

From houses unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included through bad arrangement	...	...	...	Nil

HOUSES NOT IN CLEARANCE AREA

Number of Houses demolished :—

As a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	2
Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	Nil
Houses unfit for human habitation when action has been taken under Local Act	...	...	...	Nil
Houses included in unfitness orders made under para. 2 of the Second Schedule in the Town and Country Planning Act, 1959	...	...	...	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or Section 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under Local Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	Nil

Families displaced :—

From houses to be demolished as a result of Formal or Informal procedure under Section 16 or 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	Nil
From Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under the Local Acts	...	...	...	...	Nil
From houses included in unfitness orders	...	...	...	...	Nil

UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

Number of Houses :—

Under Section 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil

Persons displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :				
Under Section 16 (1) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	Nil
Under Section 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil

Families displaced :—

From Houses to be closed :				
Under Sections 16 (4) 17 (1) and 35 (1) Housing Act, 1957, and Sections 26 Housing Act, 1961	...	...	...	Nil
Under Sections 17 (3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil

Parts of Buildings Closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957 :—

Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Persons displaced	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Families displaced	...	...	...	...	Nil

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

1. PROCEEDINGS UNDER HOUSING ACT :

<i>a</i>	No. Informal Notices served	...	...	...	Nil
<i>b</i>	No. Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	Nil
<i>c</i>	No. Notices served under Sections 9, 10, 16, Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	Nil
<i>d</i>	No. remedied	...	...	...	Nil

2. PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT :

<i>a</i>	Following Informal action, No. remedied	...	...	3
<i>b</i>	No. Statutory Notices served	...	...	3
<i>c</i>	No. complied with (by owner)	...	...	6
<i>d</i>	No. complied with by Local Authority	...	...	Nil

RENT ACT, 1957

No applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received during the year.

FOOD

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

Routine visits were made to a large number of premises. There were no instances of contraventions which merited other than an informal admonition, e.g., failure to properly fasten an overall. I am led to believe that there is now a basic awareness amongst food traders to the need for good hygiene practices.

CONDEMNED FOOD

The following list of miscellaneous foods were surrendered and condemned as not fit for human consumption:

Carcase meat from retail shops (source outside Borough)	283-lbs.
Cooked Meat and Meat Products	41-lbs.
Canned Meats	18 Cans
Other canned goods	558 Cans
Fish (fresh)	7-lbs.
Fruit and Vegetables	None
Frozen Foods (due to cabinet breakdown)	847 Pkts.
Cheese	128-lbs.
Confectionery	188-lbs.

ICE-CREAM

Of the premises registered with the Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only one is used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

The manufacturer complies with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

Samples of Ice-Cream were taken during the year and submitted for examination at the Monmouthshire Public Health Laboratory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Of the 969 people employed in premises controlled by the above Act, 635 were females and 334 males. Two new premises were registered and two had ceased to function at the end of the year leaving a number of 192 similar to the previous year. There were no formal complaints received, and in 225 visits of all kinds no outstanding contravention was observed. Occupiers are anxious to co-operate, and in one instance in a supermarket a useful screening arrangement was incorporated in the warehouse to protect a small packaging department. My only observation in this section of the work in in the protection in the Act for butchers to give instructions for entrance doors to be kept open resulting in the employees working in temperatures of between 45F. and 50F. It is strange that while food spoilage is the defence, many butcher shops manage to keep the doors closed with a consequential higher working temperature without causing deterioration of the meat. I think it is also significant that I have never had to seize or accept on surrender any meat during summer months that have so deteriorated as to become unfit for human consumption.

Four accidents were reported during the year. Each one seemed to be due to simple accidents and no investigation appeared necessary. Each accident was minor in degree and the person soon recovered.

RODENT CONTROL

This is the first full year during which rodent control in the town has been undertaken by a private firm. The standard of work seems satisfactory, but the one reservation I have is that there will be insufficient attention paid to surveying the area. It has been my experience that in order to maintain a low level of rat population the attitude of the local authority must be one of offence and not defensive. To this end we are discussing with the firm we employ an arrangement whereby their operator can spend periods in routine inspection from time to time. The inhabitants of the town can likewise help. Their vigilance and reports to us can enable us continue the very satisfactory level of infestation in this town which has been brought about by conscientious endeavours over many years.

	NON- AGRICULTURAL	AGRICULTURAL
1. Number of properties in district ...	4200	12
2. Total number of properties (in- ing nearby premises) inspected following notification ...	90	—
Number infested by (i) Rats ...	61	—
(ii) Mice ...	29	—
3. Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification ...	218	1
Number infested by (i) Rats ...	30	—
(ii) Mice ...	—	—

SEWER CONTROL

Two treatments were carried out at six monthly intervals and once again it was significant that the incidence of surface infestations were appreciably reduced.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1967

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :

			<i>Number of Factories</i>	<i>Mechanical Power used</i>	<i>With Power not used</i>
Agricultural Machinery Repairs	...	...	2	2	0
Buildings and Joinery	...	...	5	5	0
Bakery	...	...	4	4	0
Blacksmiths	...	...	1	1	0
Boot and Shoe Repair	...	...	3	3	0
Cellulose Spraying	...	...	6	6	0
Clock and Watch Repair	...	...	3	0	3
Concrete Products	...	...	1	1	0
Dry Cleaners	...	...	1	1	0
Egg Grading	...	...	1	1	0
Electrical Repairs (including radio)	...	...	5	0	5
Firewood	...	...	1	1	0
Fish Friers	...	...	4	4	0
Florists	...	...	4	0	4
Gas Undertaking	...	...	1	1	0
Ice-Cream	...	...	1	1	0
Ironworks and Engineers	...	...	2	2	0
Meat—small goods	...	...	5	5	0
Mineral waters	...	...	1	1	0
Monumental Masonry	...	...	1	1	0
Motor Repairs	...	...	6	6	0

			<i>Number of Factories</i>	<i>Mechanical Power used</i>	<i>With Power not used</i>
Printing ... ..	...	...	2	2	0
Paper Cutting and Packing ...	...	...	1	1	0
Slaughterhouses ... ..	...	...	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery ... ..	...	...	1	1	0
Textile Products ... ..	...	...	3	3	0
Telephone Repairs ... ..	...	...	1	1	0
Tent Repairs ... ..	...	...	1	0	1
Tinsmiths ... ..	...	...	1	0	1
Upholstery and French Polishing	...	...	1	0	1
Welding ... ..	...	...	3	3	0
Wool Staplers ... ..	...	...	1	0	1

OUTWORKERS—During 1969 four outworkers were listed, concerned with : Wearing apparel (3); Retail drapery (1).

Twenty-eight inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found :—

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Insp.</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prose'ns</i>
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Convenience—					
(a) Insufficient	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933-1954

In accordance with the above Acts the Council have issued Licences to five persons authorising them to act as Slaughtermen.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part

	Cattle exl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Slaughtered ...	1364	47	66	11217	3314	—
Number Inspected	1364	47	66	11217	3314	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole Carcases condemned	1	7	—	16	1	—
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned...	335	25	1	266	98	—
Percentage of the number inspected	24.6	7.0	1.5	2.5	3.0	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcase condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	—	27	—
Percentage of the number inspected	—	—	—	—	0.8	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—				
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—				
Generalised totally and condemned	—	—				

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE

The contract for the modernisation of the remaining wing of the Slaughterhouse was commenced in December, 1969, and completed in November this year.

This scheme, drawn up by Mr. Madrell the Borough Engineer's Architectural Assistant and designed in consultation with this office, has been concentrated on the slaughter of small animals such as sheep, pigs and calves, with a daily throughput capacity of some 150 sheep or the equivalent in pig and calves. It incorporates a line system for the slaughter of sheep in the same slaughterhall as pigs, both animals capable of being dealt with simultaneously. Walls and non-slip tiled floors have been designed to be easily cleansed and woodwork has been reduced to the barest minimum. A new lairage contiguous with the slaughterhall and hanging hall provides sufficient well lighted and ventilated accommodation provided with adequate provisions for water and feeding. Hot and cold water hose points are provided at strategic positions to facilitate spraying of carcasses and cleaning down. From the working experience of the last few weeks it is apparaent that the main difficulty will be in persuading slaughtering contractors who have been using old methods to adapt themselves to the new system. I believe that it is a normal difficulty in this case, but experience has shown that once the system is adopted the old one is discarded for good.

In July the lease held by the Abergavenny District Farmers' Association expired and the Council entered into a lease agreement with the Gwent Slaughtering Company in November, a consortium of butchers who had either had their animals slaughtered at Abergavenny or had been deprived of this service by the closure of the slaughterhouse at Abersychan.

The immediate effect was to increase the throughput of the slaughterhouse from 14% in the case of pigs to 102% in the case of sheep, and the indications are that this trend will continue, and while the facilities are enjoyed by butchers over a large area, including the Eastern Valleys and the indications are that this trend will continue, and while the facilities are enjoyed by butchers over a large area, including the Eastern Valleys of Monmouthshire, Pontypool, Newport and even as far as Chepstow, I believe even greater use will be made of this amenity so closely related to the Abergavenny Cattle Market this slaughterhouse now being the only one situated in Monmouthshire.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular infections:—

Carcase meat	...	...	290-lbs.
Offal	...	...	290-lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis:—

Carcase meat	...	...	5661-lbs.
Offal	...	...	7479-lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned ... 13720-lbs.

RAINFALL, 1970

Diameter of Funnel, 5-inches.

Rain Guage — Height of Top — Above Ground, 1 foot
 — Above Sea Level, 215 feet.

Situation : BAILEY PARK

<i>Month</i>				<i>Total Depth inches</i>
January	...	...	...	15.71
February	...	...	...	4.96
March	...	...	...	2.19
April	...	...	...	3.46
May	...	...	...	2.85
June	...	...	...	4.08
July	...	...	...	2.54
August	...	...	...	5.82
September	...	...	...	4.95
October	...	...	...	2.95
November	...	...	...	14.16
December	...	...	...	2.09
				<hr/> 65.76 <hr/>

ROGER J. HOWELLS,

Public Health Inspector.

